



United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Open Pedagogy Fellowship

Connecting Sociological Theory, Research to a Social Problem

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Introduction:

You are a part of a collegewide effort to increase access to education and empower students through "open pedagogy." Open pedagogy is a "free access" educational practice that places you - the student - at the center of your own learning process in a more engaging, collaborative learning environment. The ultimate purpose of this effort is to achieve greater social justice in our community in which the work can be freely shared with the broader community. This is a renewable assignment that is designed to enable you to become an agent of change in your community through the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For this work, you will integrate the disciplines of Sociology and Mathematics to achieve SDG #10: Reduced Inequalities. With a focus on Target 10.3: Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.

Learning Objectives:

Explain the role of Sociology in contributing to the systematic understanding of social reality historically and comparatively. Summarize the relationship between micro and macro levels of analysis Demonstrate analytical/critical thinking skills by explaining the inter-relatedness of foundational sociological concepts Explain the structural aspects of inequalities (stratification) by describing the significance of diversity in domestic and global context: emphasis on the intersections of region (urban-metropolitan-rural), culture, race, ethnicity, class, sex/gender, age. Explain the role of evidence in building sociological knowledge by describing the research process with appropriate research terminology. Identify and compare methodological approaches and be able to use basic statistical resources when analyzing social phenomena. Emphasis on analytical reasoning.

Purpose/Rationale:

This assignment is a collaborative, active learning assignment designed to improve your analytical/critical thinking skills, community connections and improve awareness of social justice issues impacting your community.

Instructions:

Part 1: Describe the Sociological Theory/Perspectives that best aligns with how you view the world. The Theories you will select from are; Structural Functionalism, Symbolic Interaction, Conflict Theory, and Feminism. Respond to the following in at least 500 words: Which of the Sociological Perspectives best describe your view of society and why? Be specific and use an example that illustrates your opinion. Select a social problem or issue you are concerned with (an example would be childhood obesity) and describe how it could be solved from the perspective of one Sociological theory. (Hint hint :-) If I chose childhood obesity as my social problem, I could argue that it could be solved from the Symbolic Interaction theory where we as a community change the symbols, language around eating unhealthy) Use College-level writing/grammar Include relevant Sociological terms and concepts AND an example that supports your opinion.

Background on Assignment

Part 2: According to experts, across the United States, the 2.3 million incarcerated Americans who have a current address at a prison or jail are also designated by the census as residents of the areas in which they are incarcerated rather than of their home districts, a population redistribution called prison gerrymandering (Wagner & Bertram, 2020). Because prisons are disproportionately built in rural areas but most incarcerated people call urban areas home, counting prisoners in the wrong place results in a bogus transfer of population and political clout from urban to rural areas. This is what gerrymandering is.... In many cases, rural, predominantly White towns see their population numbers boosted by population counts from prisons disproportionately made up of Black and Brown people. Resources: Prison-based gerrymandering in Arizona Lawmaker's long-shot effort to end 'prison gerrymandering' Census Bureau will count incarcerated people in the wrong place once again in 2020 Census, continues to distort democracy Home Stuck With Census Policy, More States Pass Laws To End 'Prison Gerrymandering' : Code Switch How Prison Gerrymandering Distorts Political Representation | Time Part 2 Assignment: After reading the articles and resources on Prison Gerrymandering In at least 700 words: Explain in your own words how prison gerrymandering works. Explain how prisoners are counted in your state? What are Arizona's incarceration rates by race? Where do the people who are incarcerated come from? What are the potential consequences (the Census count etc) of counting them either from their home locations or from their prison locations? What is one thing you learned about Prison Gerrymandering? What are two additional questions you still have about Prison Gerrymandering? What is one other social problem you would like to further investigate? Use College-level writing/grammar Include relevant Sociological terms and concepts AND an example that supports your opinion.

Part 3 Assignment Instructions: The Final Assignment consists of three creative tasks designed to build critical thinking, practice presentation skills as well as demonstrate College level writing and research skills. The projects will allow you to research a social issue (secondary research), analyze the data from your sources, and report the findings in class (this is the presentation) by recording a video. Please be sure to put together slides to accompany your video. The length of your video and slide deck will vary, but should be at least 5 minutes in length. Your presentation should include:

Format Requirements:

Format for student submissions will contain a variety of choices; google doc, Google slides, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Powerpoint and Video Recording.

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